March 2012

Regional Economic Indicators

Battle River Region

Government of Alberta

Battle River Region

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The Region at a Glance

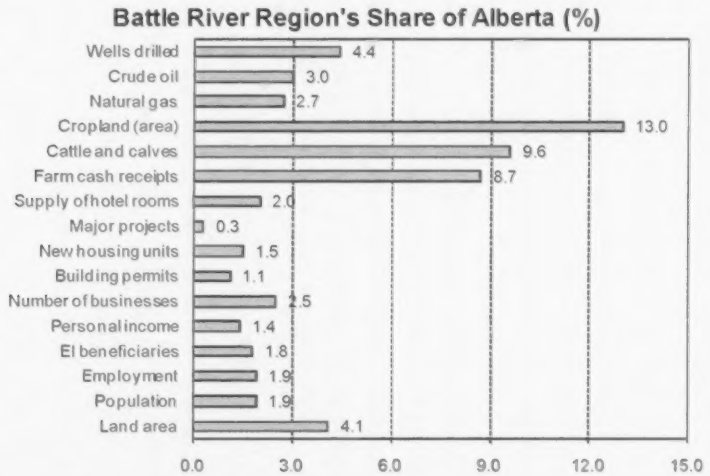
The Battle River region in eastern Alberta covers an area of 26,298 square kilometers, slightly larger in size than the state of Maryland. The region accounts for 4.1% of Alberta's land mass and for 1.9% of Alberta's population.

According to Statistics Canada's latest estimates, the region's population totaled 69,700 in 2010, an increase of 3.2% from 2006. According to the Labour Force Survey, the region's unemployment rate was 5.6% in 2010, up from 5.1% in 2009. The number of employees was estimated at 35,960 in the 2006 Census.

The region's largest industry on an employment basis is agriculture, accounting for 17% of total employment in Census year 2006, followed by health care and social assistance at 11%, and retail trade and oil and gas at about 10% each. The fastest growing industry between Census years 2001 and 2006 was the oil and gas sector, which increased its employment by 40%, followed by construction which increased its employment by one-third. Employment in the agricultural sector, which has been on a long and steady decline in the province, fell by 16% in the Battle River region between the two Census years.

According to personal income taxfiler data the average individual income in the region was $30,600 per taxfiler in 2007, a large 43% increase from 2003. Average income for couples was $93,100 in 2007, a 44% rise from 2003.

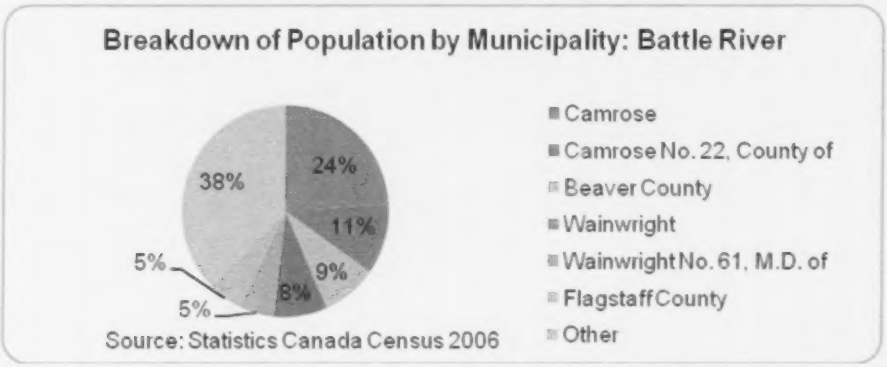
The Battle River region is one of Alberta's top agricultural regions. It accounts for 13% of the province's cropland and for 8.7% of total farm receipts. It is also the province's largest producer of spring wheat and oats, the second largest producer of canola, and a major cattle producer. In 2009, the region accounted for 3% of Alberta's crude oil production, for 2.7% of gas production and for 4.4% of the number of wells drilled.



Although very few current indicators are available on a regional basis, it is clear that the impacts of the global economic crisis have also subsided in this region; for instance the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries receiving regular benefits in Battle River fell by 10% between 2009 and 2010. Moreover, the number declined by 44% between June 2010 and June 2011.

Major Municipalities

The largest municipality in the Battle River Region, according to the 2006 Statistics Canada Census, was the City of Camrose with a population of 15,620[1]. According to the same census, the municipality in the Battle River Region with the highest population growth between 2001 and 2006 was the Town of Wainwright. Wainwright experienced an increase of 6.1% or 309 residents between 2001 and 2006. High growth was also seen in the municipal census of 2008 that showed 16,543 individuals in Camrose, a 4.4% increase from the previous municipal census of 2005. The Town of Wainwright grew by 7.6% over the same period[2].



Economic Indicators: Battle River Region						
Major Municipalities*	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**5 Year % Change**	**1996 Population**	**10 Year % Change**
Camrose	City	15,620	14,870	5.0%	13,728	13.8%
Camrose No. 22, County	Municipal District	7,160	7,278	-1.6%	7,613	-6.0%
Beaver County	Municipal District	5,676	5,644	0.6%	5,659	0.3%
Wainwright	Town	5,426	5,117	6.1%	5,079	6.8%
Wainwright No. 61, M.D.	Municipal District	3,558	4,231	-15.9%	4,044	-12.0%
Flagstaff County	Municipal District	3,506	3,692	-5.0%	4,015	-12.7%
Provost No. 52, M.D.	Municipal District	2,547	2,640	-3.5%	2,705	-5.8%
Paintearth No. 18, County	Municipal District	2,126	2,192	-3.0%	2,316	-8.2%
Provost	Town	2,072	1,980	4.6%	1,904	8.8%
Tofield	Town	1,876	1,818	3.2%	1,726	8.7%
Source: Statistics Canada Census 1996, 2001, 2006						

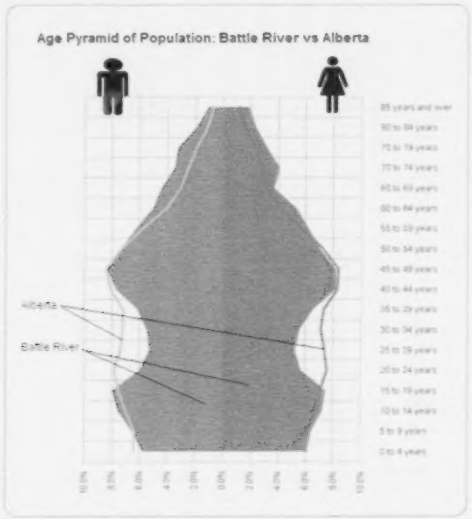
* Top 10 cities, towns, villages and municipal districts in region, based on population in latest census year

[1] Note: the Census under-estimates the overall population totals for any region or municipality as some people are not counted. The reasons for this under-coverage can range from some households not receiving a census questionnaire to individuals not being included in the questionnaire completed for a household.

[2] Numerical differences between the federal and municipal censuses may be ascribed to slight variations in the definition of "usual residence," as well as how "shadow populations" are treated. While municipalities define the "shadow population" as "temporary residents of a municipality who are employed by an industrial or commercial establishment in the municipality for a minimum of 30 days" and include them in their official population numbers if they consist at least 10% of the municipality's population or a minimum of 1,000 individuals, the shadow population of transient workers is not accounted for in population counts conducted by Statistics Canada.

Demographics

According to the most recent Statistics Canada Census, the population of the Battle River Region was 65,559 in 2006 or 2.0% of Alberta's total population. This was a 0.3% increase from the Census estimate of 2001 and a 0.1% decrease from the 1996 Census estimate. The Census indicates that, on average, the Battle River region's population is older than the provincial average. This may prove to be a challenge for the smaller cohort in the current prime working age group as they are increasingly required to sustain the older generation through higher productivity levels.



Economic Indicators: Battle River Region			
	2006	**2001**	**1996**
Census Population[3]	65,559	65,357	65,626
% of Provincial Total	2.0	2.2	2.4
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	19.5	21.0	22.9
Age Group: 14 – 24 (%)	13.5	13.6	N/A
Age Group: 25 – 44 (%)	25.1	27.0	N/A
Age Group: 45 – 64 (%)	26.9	23.4	N/A
Age Group: 65+ (%)	16.0	15.9	15.5
Dependency Ratio [4]	55.0	58.5	62.2
Old Age Dependency Ratio [5]	24.8	25.2	25.0
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

[3] See below paragraph about the under-coverage problems of Census population estimates

[4] Dependency Ratio: The percentage of the population below the age of 15(Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15-64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

[5] Old Age Dependency Ratio: The percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15-64). This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

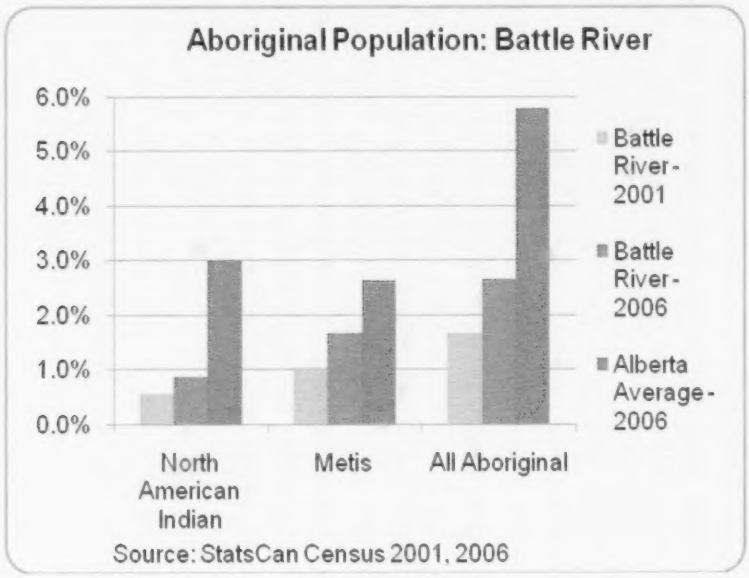
Although the Census provides the most detailed and accurate information at a single point in time on the demographic, social and economic conditions of the population, the Census under-estimates the overall population totals for any region as some people are not counted. The reasons for this under-coverage can range from some households not receiving a census questionnaire to individuals not being included in the questionnaire completed for a household. Therefore, the below presented post-censal estimates should be used as the official population estimates for the region.

Population Estimates – Battle River Region					
	2010	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**	**2006**
Total Population (Thousands)	69.7	69.7	69.3	68.7	67.5
Share of Provincial Total (%)	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Source: Statistics Canada – estimates as of July 1 of each year					

According to the post-censal estimates, the region's population increased by 2,200 or 3.2% between 2006 and 2010, compared with 8.8% growth at the provincial level. The region's share of Alberta's population was stable at 1.9% in 2010.

Aboriginal Population

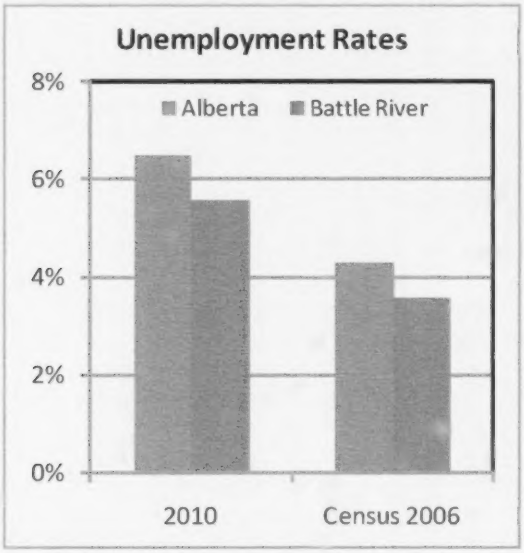
According to the 2006 federal Census Aboriginals made up 5.8% (1,710 individuals) of the Battle River Region's population. Of this group, slightly more than half (3.0%) defined themselves as North American Indians, and slightly less than half (2.8%) as Metis.[6]

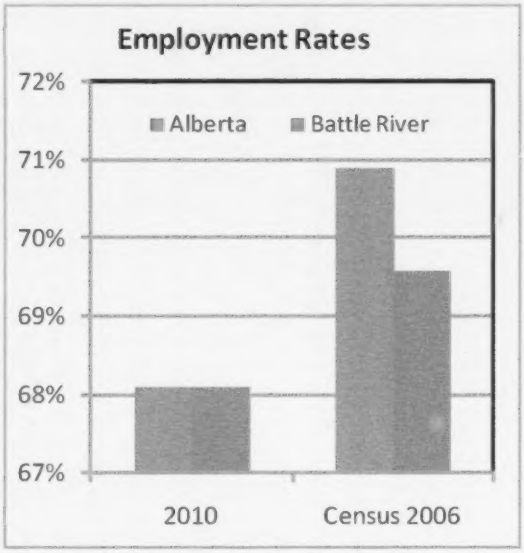


[6] **Aboriginals:** According to Statistics Canada Aboriginal identity is an indicator of a person's affiliation with an Aboriginal group that is North American Indian, Metis or Inuit. Non status and Status/Treaty Indians may be included in this group.
Metis: Registry and membership with the Metis Nation of Alberta is based upon a definition of Metis, which was passed at the Annual General Assembly held in Edmonton in August 2003. "Metis means a person who self-identifies as a Metis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Metis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Metis Nation."
Registered (Status) or Treaty Indian Indians: According to Statistics Canada Registered Indians (also referred to as "status Indians") refer to those persons registered under the *Indian Act* while Treaty Indian refer to people who are registered under the *Indian Act* and who belong to an Indian Band or First Nation that signed a treaty with the Crown. Registered/Treaty Indians may be classified as on or off reserve indicating their place of residence.

Labour Force Characteristics

According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Battle River region's employment rate[7] for the working age population of 15 years and older was 68.1% in 2010 and the participation rate[8] was 72.2%. By comparison, Alberta's employment and participation rates were 68.1% and 72.9%, respectively. The region's unemployment rate rose to an estimated 5.6% in 2010, up from 5.1% in 2009. However, this rate is lower than the Alberta average of 6.5% in 2010.





Labour Force Characteristics – Battle River Region					
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**
Participation Rate: 15 years and older (%)	72.0	72.6	70.1	71.9	72.2
Unemployment Rate: 15 years and older (%)	n/a	3.5	n/a	5.1	5.6
Employment Rate: 15 years and older (%)	70.1	70.1	68.3	68.0	68.1
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey **N/A= data suppressed, insufficient sample size**					
Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional Labour Force Survey estimates may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, due to sample size problems and there not being any population control totals for non-standard geographies such as this region.					

[7] The employment rate measures the proportion of the adult population that is employed. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15+)*100. High labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

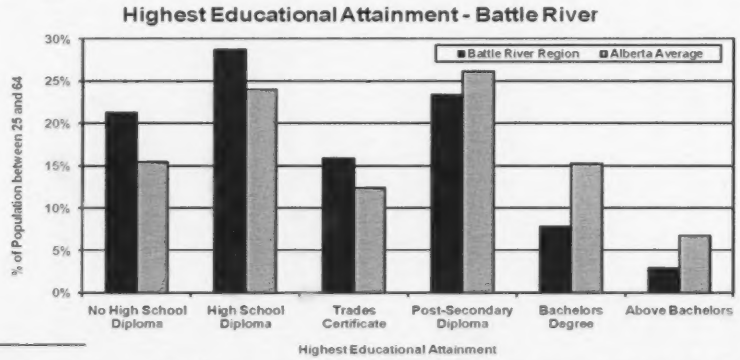
[8] The participation rate measures the proportion of the adult population that is in the labour force. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15+)*100. High labour participation is an effective indicator of the level of engagement among the working age population and traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

Timely labour force estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are generally not reliable for small areas such as this region[9]. Statistics Canada therefore suggests to only use the rates, such as unemployment rate and participation rate, from the LFS rather than the levels, such as total employment and working age population. As a result, Census estimates are used for the following discussions on employment level estimates.

Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 14.7% or by 239,800. Over the same period, employment in the Battle River region grew by an estimated 1,770 or 5.2%. In 2006, the Battle River region made up 2.0% of Alberta's working age population (15+ years), and the region's increase in employment between 2001 and 2006 accounted for 0.7% of all new jobs created in Alberta over that period.

Labour Force Characteristics - Battle River Region		
	2006	**2001**
Population: 15 years and older (Thousands)	52.0	50.3
Labour Force: 15 years and older (Thousands)	37.3	35.5
Employment: 15 years and older (Thousands)	36.0	34.2
Unemployment: 15 years and older (Thousands)	1.4	1.4
Participation Rate: 15 years and older (%)	72.2	70.7
Unemployment Rate: 15 years and older (%)	3.6	3.8
Employment Rate: 15 years and older (%)	69.6	68.0
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006		
Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional Labour Force Survey estimates may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Because of these data problems, census data for 2001 and 2006 were used for all indicators for the smaller regions such as the Battle River Region and data for these indicators for the other years are not included in the tables.		

According to the 2006 census, the level of educational attainment is lower for this region than for Alberta. For the working aged population of between 25 and 64 years, 34.1% had a post-secondary degree or diploma, compared with 48.1% for all of Alberta. However, the region does have a larger share holding a trades certificate: 15.8% in the region vs. 12.4% in Alberta. 21.3% of the region's working age population did not finish high school, higher than the Alberta average of 15.4%.



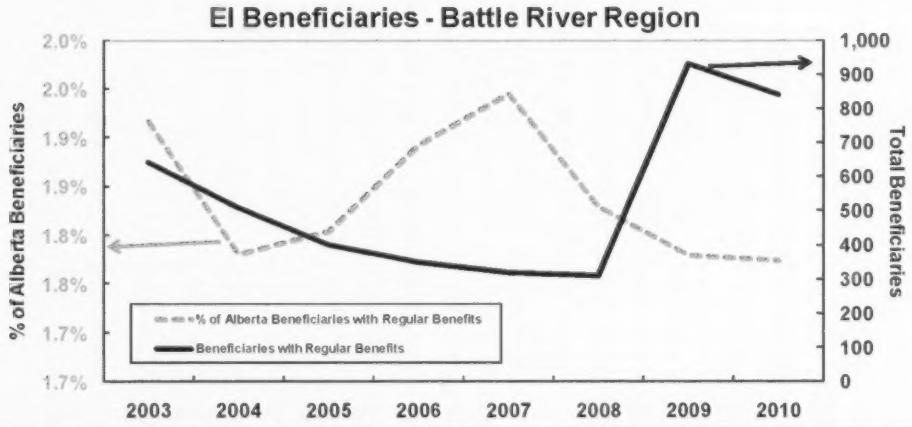
[9] Due to sample size problems and there not being any population control totals for non-standard geographies

Employment Insurance Beneficiaries

In 2010, 840 people received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits[10] in the Battle River region, a 10% decrease from the 2009 number of 930[11]. Over the same period, the number of EI recipients fell by 9% in Alberta. As a result, the region's share of Alberta EI recipients remained at 1.8%. The end of the recession is also reflected in current EI estimates. Between February 2010 and February 2011, the number of regular beneficiaries fell by an estimated 34% in the region.

The total number of income beneficiaries[12] with both regular and special benefits, such as for sickness or parental leave, declined by 8% between 2009 and 2010 as most of the decrease in income beneficiaries was the result of the decline in the number of regular beneficiaries, rather than those receiving special benefits.

Note: although this measure provides a useful gauge of unemployment it is an imperfect measure, as it excludes self-employed workers and individuals who were unemployed for more than 12 months. At the Canadian level, the EI beneficiaries-to-unemployed ratio was fairly stable over time prior to the recession at between 40% and 45%. In Alberta, the ratio fell gradually during the economic boom years from more than 40% in 1996 to less than 25% in 2007 and the first nine months of 2008. The ratio climbed to more than 40% in 2009 and was 36% in 2010.



EI Recipients - Battle River Region								
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Total number of Income Beneficiaries	870	800	820	840	1,530	1,400	-8%	61%
Number of EI Beneficiaries with Regular Benefits	400	350	320	310	930	840	-10%	110%
% of Alberta Beneficiaries with Regular Benefits	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Sources: Statistics Canada, Human Resource and Skills Development Canada								

[10] The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.
[11] Canada's Economic Action Plan provides beneficiaries with five extra weeks of regular EI benefits in 2009 and 2010.
[12] The number of beneficiaries receiving total income benefits includes both the beneficiaries receiving regular benefits and those receiving special benefits, such as for training, job creation, sickness, parental.

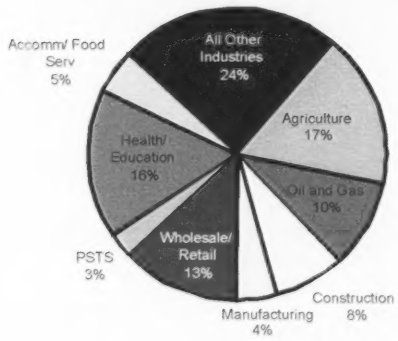
Employment by Industry

In 2006, according to Statistics Canada's census data, the services-producing sector in the Battle River region accounted for about 60% of the total number employed. By comparison, the service sector accounted for 72% of Alberta's employment.

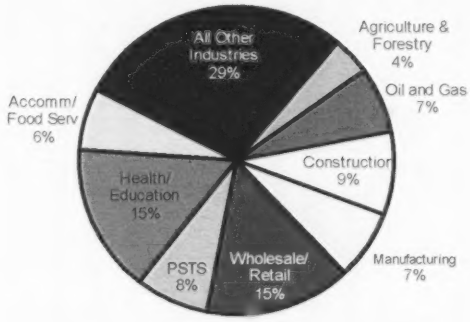
The Agriculture[13] industry employed the largest number of individuals. This industry accounted for 17% of the region's employment, much higher than the industry's 4% share at the provincial level. The region's next largest industries in 2006 were the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector with an 11% share of regional employment and the Mining and the Oil and Gas sector with a 10% share.

Between 2001 and 2006, the Mining and Oil and Gas industry had the largest employment gain (up 1,020), mainly because of increased drilling activity. Large increases of between 600 and 700 jobs were also noted for the Construction and Healthcare and Social Assistance sectors. In the region's largest industry, Agriculture, employment decreased by about 1,200.

Employment Shares by Industry
Battle River-Census 2006



Employment Shares by Industry
Alberta - Census 2006



PSTS = professional, scientific and technical services

Although estimates from the Labour Force Survey are not very reliable[14] for the small regions, it is clear from the survey's results that the Agriculture sector has seen a sharp decline in employment levels between 2006 and 2010, while Construction and Oil and Gas employment has declined since 2008.

[13] Also includes forestry, but forestry sector has very few employees in the Battle River region

[14] Due to sample size problems and there not being any population control totals for non-standard geographies

Employment by Industry - Battle River Region		
	2006	**2001**
All Industries (Thousands) - Total	**36.0**	**34.2**
Goods-Producing Sector	**14.4**	**13.7**
Agriculture & Forestry	6.1	7.3
Mining & Oil & Gas	3.5	2.5
Utilities	0.4	0.4
Construction	2.8	2.1
Manufacturing	1.6	1.4
Services-Producing Sector	**21.5**	**20.5**
Wholesale Trade	1.2	1.3
Retail Trade	3.4	3.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1.7	1.7
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	1.2	1.2
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	1.0	1.0
Business, Building & Other Support Services	0.9	0.9
Educational Services	1.9	1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	4.0	3.4
Information, Culture & Recreation	0.4	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	1.8	1.7
Other Services	2.0	1.8
Public Administration	1.8	1.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional Labour Force Survey estimates may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Because of these data problems, census data for 2001 and 2006 were used for all indicators for the smaller regions such as the Battle River Region and data for these indicators for the other years are not included in the tables.

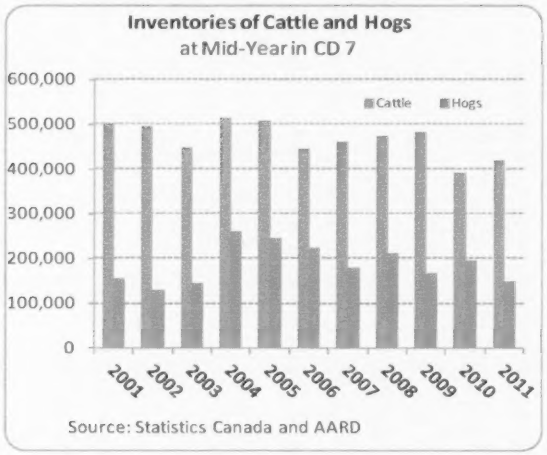
Agriculture

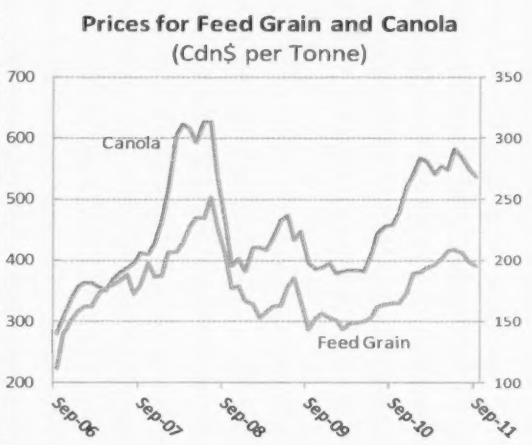
Agriculture is the Battle River region's top industry on an employment basis. The region had total farm cash receipts of $865 million in Census year 2006, accounting for 8.7% of Alberta's farm receipts. In that year, there were more than 4,400 farms in the region with a total acreage of 6.1 million acres or 11.6% of Alberta's total farm acreage. Average farm size was almost 1,400 acres.

The region accounted for 8.8% of the total value of on-farm livestock and poultry with a total market value of $439 million in 2006. The total number of cattle and calves was 610,000, most of them beef cattle. Battle River's share of Alberta's total number of cattle and calves was 9.6%, of hogs 7.4%, and of hens and chickens 12.5%.

Cropland acreage totaled about 3.1 million acres. The region is the province's largest producer of spring wheat, accounting for 18% of Alberta's wheat acreage, and of oats. It is also one of the top three regions for canola (17% of Alberta's acreage), barley, mixed grains and field peas.

Very few current agricultural indicators are available for these special geographies. However, livestock estimates are available for Census Division 7 (CD7), most of which lies in the Battle River region[1]. Between mid-year 2006 and mid-year 2011, the number of cattle and calves in CD7 fell by 6% and the number of hogs by one-third.





In crop year 2009-10 (year ending August 31, 2010), grain and oilseed deliveries at elevators in the Battle River region totaled 850,000 tonnes[2], down 24% from 2008-09. Wheat (excluding durum) accounted for 59% of the total tonnage, followed by canola (28%) and barley (10%).

Prices for canola and feed grain had more than doubled between early 2006 and the summer of 2008, but fell sharply by about 40% through early 2009. Crop prices rebounded strongly between spring 2010 and summer 2011, but recent global uncertainties have led to modest price declines during the past few months. Prices for red spring wheat fell sharply in August and September, but recovered some of their losses in October 2011. The recent weakening of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar will benefit Alberta crop and cattle growers.

In 2011, Alberta crop production was significantly higher than in the previous year, with record harvests of canola (4.8 million tonnes) and spring wheat (7.6 million tonnes). Crop conditions in the Battle River region were also much better than normal that year.

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[1] A map of Agricultural Census Divisions can be found in: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2006/m/car-rar-eng.pdf

[2] Deliveries at grain elevators may not be representative of production as grain can be delivered at out-of-region elevators

Energy

Oil and gas production in the Battle River region has been declinng over the last five years, with gas production declining by 24.1% between 2004 and 2009, and oil production by 28.3%. Gas production declined by 15.9% between 2008 and 2009, and oil production by 7.7%.

Battle River's share of overall Alberta gas production was 3.0% in 2009. Average annual gas prices dropped by 53.3% in 2009 to $3.65 per gigajoule. So far in 2010, gas prices have averaged $3.73, a slight increase from 2009, and low by historical standards.

The Battle River region is the second largest conventional oil producing region in Alberta and the fifth largest overall oil producer (combining conventional and oil-sands). The region's share of Alberta's conventional oil production was 14.7% in 2009, but its share of total crude oil output was only 3.5%. Oil prices dropped by 38.0% to US$61.80 per barrel in 2009. However, so far in 2010 oil prices have averaged $78.08, an increase of 26.3%.

Over the last five years, the number of spudded wells[17] in the region has dropped 84.3%. Between 2008 and 2009, the spud count dropped by 65.3% to 231 wells, accounting for 3.2% of the Alberta total. Part of the decline can be attributed to a weak global economy and soft energy prices. However, in the first 10 months of 2010, the number of wells drilled in Alberta rose 44% from the same period of 2009, largely because of a more than doubling in the number of conventional oil wells. The Petroleum Services Association of Canada is forecasting an increase of 5% in 2011 over 2010 for Alberta drilling. These drilling estimates and forecasts should provide some optimism for oil producers in Battle River.

Economic Indicators: Battle River Region

Oil and Gas Statistics

	2009	2008	2004	% Change 1 Year	% Change 5 Years
Crude oil production (millions of cubic metres)	3.9	4.2	5.5	-7.7%	-28.3%
Natural gas production (billions of cubic metres)	4.1	4.9	5.5	-15.9%	-24.1%
Number of wells spudded	231	665	1,471	-65.3%	-84.3%

Source: Alberta Energy

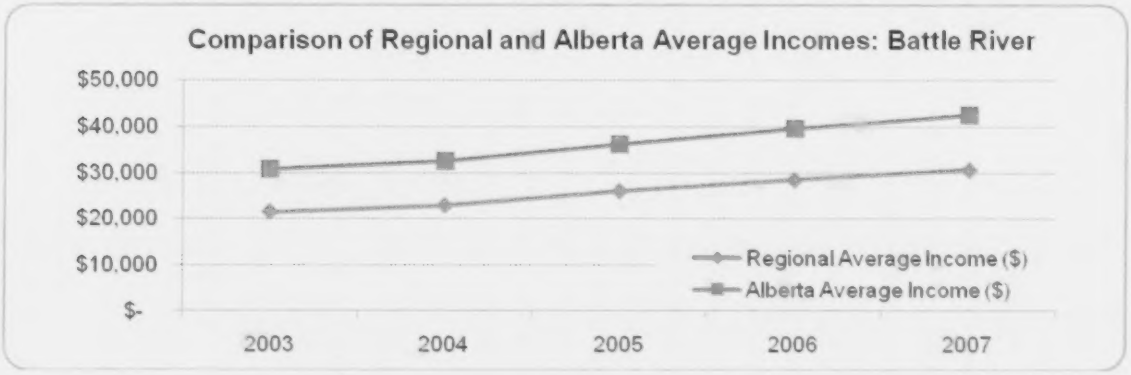
The region's total gas potential represents 5.2% of Alberta's overall reserves, and oil potential is 10.4% of Alberta's conventional reserves.

[17] A spud is the very beginning of a drilling operation for a well

Taxfiler Income,

In 2007, the average individual income in the Battle River Region was $30,625, a 7.6% increase from 2006, but 28.1% less than the provincial average of $42,570 in 2007. In the same year, average couple income[23] in the Battle River Region was $93,105, a 9.7% increase from the year before, but 25.8% less than the provincial average of $125,485 in 2007.

The percentage of taxfilers that reported an individual gross income over $100,000 was 4.2%, while 31.4% of taxfilers identified as couples reported an income of over $100,000.



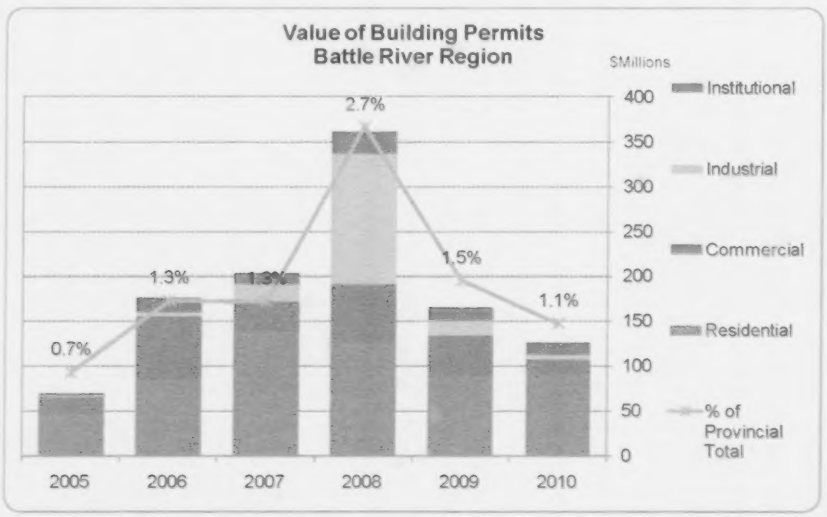
Economic Indicators: Battle River Region						
	Single Taxfilers			Couple Taxfilers		
	2007	2006	2003	2007	2006	2003
Average Income ($)						
Battle River	$30,625	$28,450	$21,465	$93,105	$84,895	$64,505
% Change 1 Year	7.6%			9.7%		
% Change 4 Years	42.7%			44.3%		
Alberta	$42,570	$39,560	$30,770	$125,485	$115,965	$87,775
% Change 1 Year	7.6%			8.2%		
% Change 4 Years	38.3%			43.0%		
Income Range						
0 or Negative	23.5%	23.8%	24.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
$1 - $20,000	27.9%	29.6%	35.2%	5.0%	5.6%	9.3%
$20,000 - $40,000	19.7%	19.9%	20.5%	15.3%	17.6%	23.6%
$40,000 - $60,000	13.0%	12.2%	10.7%	15.5%	17.4%	21.2%
$60,000- $80,000	7.8%	7.4%	5.3%	16.8%	17.4%	18.3%
$80,000 - $100,000	4.0%	3.5%	2.1%	15.6%	14.3%	12.4%
Over $100,000	4.2%	3.6%	1.5%	31.4%	27.2%	14.5%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise						

[23] Couples are defined as married or common-law

Investment

In 2010, the total building permit value for the Battle River region stood at $126.4 million, making up 1.1% of the provincial total. In 2010, the total building permit value for the Battle River region decreased by 24% from 2009, but was 81% higher than the 2005 level. The decrease between 2009 and 2010 can be attributed to a large decrease in industrial permits of 68% to $5.2 million and a 64% fall in commercial permits to $15.5 million. Over the same period, residential permits increased by 2% to $92.5 million, while institutional permits were lower by 13%. Between 2005 and 2010, residential permits increased by 101%.

The total number of dwelling units for which building permits were taken out in the Battle River region in 2010 was 403. This was a 1% drop from the previous year, but was a 32% increase from 2005 levels. Over that five-year period, the number of multiple family dwelling units increased by 155% to 196 units in 2010. Over the same period, the number of single dwellings decreased by 10% to 207 units.



In 2010, the number of urban housing starts[24] totaled 207 in the Camrose Census Agglomeration (CA), an increase of 29% from 2009's 161 starts. This increase was largely the result of a 64% increase in the number of multi-family units between 2009 and 2010 from 85 to 139.

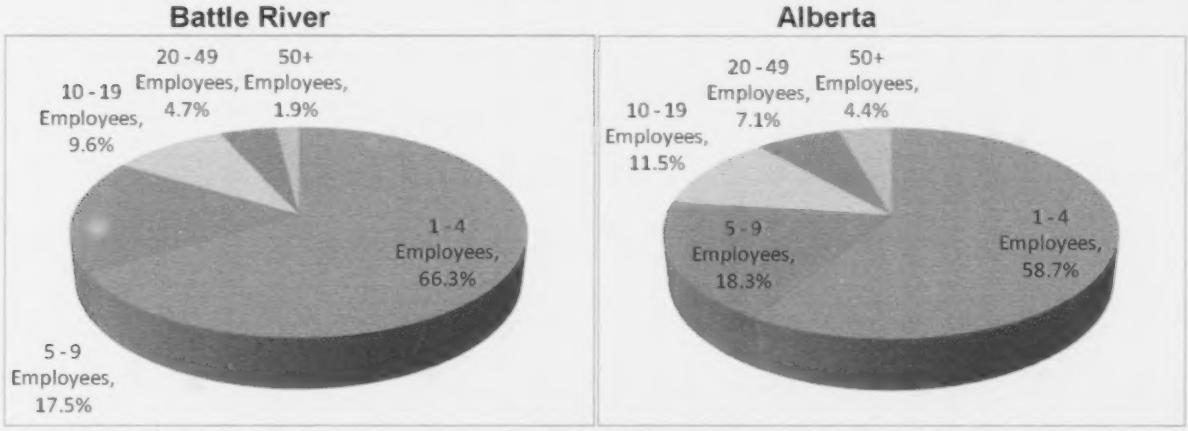
[24] Housing start information is gathered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Commission field offices; building permit estimates are gathered by Statistics Canada from municipalities. A building permit generally precedes the actual start.

Economic Indicators: Battle River Region								
Building Permits: Value ($ Millions)								
	2010	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**	**% Change 1 Year**	**% Change 5 Years**
Total	126.4	165.4	361.1	202.9	176.5	69.8	-23.6%	81.1%
% of Provincial Total	1.1%	1.5%	2.7%	1.3%	1.3%	0.7%	-24.5%	58.1%
Commercial	15.5	43.4	64.0	34.1	70.4	19.6	-64.4%	-21.0%
Industrial	5.2	16.1	146.5	18.3	4.1	1.3	-67.6%	297.3%
Institutional	13.2	15.1	24.2	12.2	16.6	2.8	-12.5%	375.2%
Residential	92.5	90.7	126.5	138.2	85.3	46.1	1.9%	100.5%
Building Permits: Number of Dwelling Units								
	2010	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**		
Total	403	406	569	676	509	306	-0.7%	31.7%
% of Provincial Total	1.5%	1.8%	2.0%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	-16.0%	116.5%
Single Dwellings	207	262	407	492	372	229	-21.0%	-9.6%
Multiple Use Dwellings	196	144	162	184	137	77	36.1%	154.5%
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilations by Alberta Finance and Enterprise								

Establishments with Employees

In 2010, the Battle River Region had 3,715 establishments with employees, making up 2.5% of all establishments with employees in Alberta. Of these establishments, 3,644 or 98.1% were small companies with between 1 and 49 employees. Micro-businesses with fewer than five employees have a 66.3% share of the region's total number of companies and large companies with 50 or more employees have a 1.9% share, compared to the 4.4% Alberta average.

Number of Establishments by Employee Size in 2010: Battle River Region and Alberta


Battle River
20 - 49 Employees, 4.7%
50+ Employees, 1.9%
10 - 19 Employees, 9.6%
1 - 4 Employees, 66.3%
5 - 9 Employees, 17.5%
Alberta
20 - 49 Employees, 7.1%
50+ Employees, 4.4%
10 - 19 Employees, 11.5%
1 - 4 Employees, 58.7%
5 - 9 Employees, 18.3%

Between 2005 and 2010, there was an increase of 0.7% (or 25) in the total number of businesses in the Battle River Region and a 0.9% increase (or 34 companies) in the number of small businesses. By comparison, at the provincial level, the total number of businesses increased by 2.3% and small companies experienced an increase of 3.4% over the same period.

In the Battle River Region, 63% of companies with employees were involved in Service Industries as of 2010. Total growth in the number of service industries was 1.0% over the past five years, while total growth in the goods industries was only 0.1% over the same period.

Agriculture and Forestry is the largest industry in the region, making up 14.1% of establishments with employees in the Battle River Region. By comparison, only 4% of establishments with employees are engaged in the Agriculture and Forestry industry at the provincial level. Agricultural companies, which account for 99% of the Agriculture and Forestry industry in this region, experienced a decline of 15.1% over the past five years. The industry with the largest small business share in 2010 was also the Agriculture and Forestry industry: 100% of all businesses in this sector have fewer than 50 employees. Over the past five years, the Utilities and Construction industry experienced the highest growth in the number of businesses, up 19.3% between 2005 and 2010. Other industries with strong growth over the past five years include Administrative and Waste Management Services and Management of Companies (up 12.9%), and Manufacturing (up 12.2%).

Besides Agriculture and Forestry, the Retail and Wholesale Trade sectors and Information, Culture, Recreation and Arts also had sizeable declines in the number of establishments over the same period.

The Battle River Region accounted for 9% of the number of establishments in Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry industry, and had a 5% share for the Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction sector.

Numbers of Establishments by Industry
Battle River Region

	All Companies (1+ Employees)				Small Companies (1-49 Employees)			
	2005	2009	2010	5-Year % Change	2005	2009	2010	5-Year % Change
Total, All Industries	**3,690**	**3,673**	**3,715**	**0.7%**	**3,610**	**3,596**	**3,644**	**0.9%**
Total, Goods Industries	**1,371**	**1,367**	**1,373**	**0.1%**	**1,350**	**1,351**	**1,358**	**0.6%**
Agriculture & Forestry	615	503	522	-15.1%	614	503	522	-15.0%
Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	298	323	311	4.4%	288	316	305	5.9%
Utilities & Construction	368	438	439	19.3%	362	433	434	19.9%
Manufacturing	90	103	101	12.2%	86	99	97	12.8%
Total, Service Industries	**2,319**	**2,306**	**2,342**	**1.0%**	**2,260**	**2,245**	**2,286**	**1.2%**
Wholesale Trade	161	153	154	-4.3%	159	152	153	-3.8%
Retail Trade	388	371	365	-5.9%	374	358	353	-5.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	268	259	261	-2.6%	266	257	260	-2.3%
Information, Culture, Recreation & Arts	93	74	86	-7.5%	93	73	86	-7.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	179	162	179	0.0%	175	159	176	0.6%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	269	289	288	7.1%	269	289	288	7.1%
Administrative & Waste Management Services & Management of Companies	147	161	166	12.9%	145	158	163	12.4%
Educational Services	25	25	26	4.0%	22	22	23	4.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	191	186	197	3.1%	169	169	181	7.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	158	150	156	-1.3%	155	142	148	-4.5%
Other Services Excluding Private Household Services*	397	434	422	6.3%	396	432	420	6.1%
Public Administration	43	42	42	-2.3%	37	34	35	-5.4%

Source: Canadian Business Patterns, Statistics Canada

*A new subsector, Private Households (hiring cooks, nannies, etc.) was created in 2006, thereby inflating the 2006 to 2010 estimates for the sector and the region as compared to previous years. Hence, to make the data comparable, the values shown for the "Other Services Excluding Private Household" industry has been adjusted and does not include the Private Households sector data.

Inventory of Major Projects

As of March 31, 2011, there were 15 projects, which were proposed, planned, under construction or recently completed in the Battle River region. The Infrastructure and Institutional sectors accounted for half of the projects in the region.

The total value for the projects in the Battle River region was $590 million, as of March 31, 2011. Projects are spread across several sectors, mainly in Infrastructure and Institutional, Residential and Other Industrial (which includes projects on military bases). More than half of the projects' value is attributable to a wind farm being developed by Greengate Power Corp. in Paintearth County.

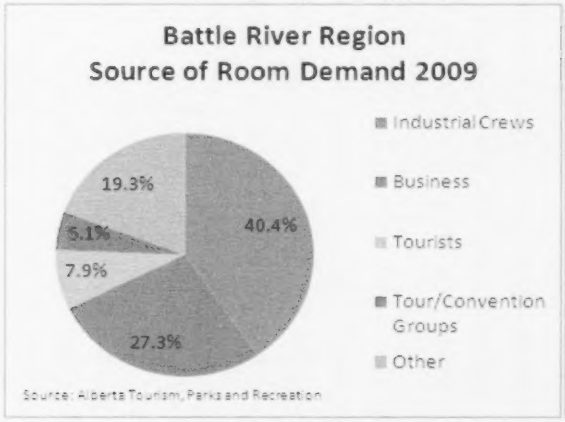
The Battle River region's share of the province's total value of major construction projects is 0.3%.

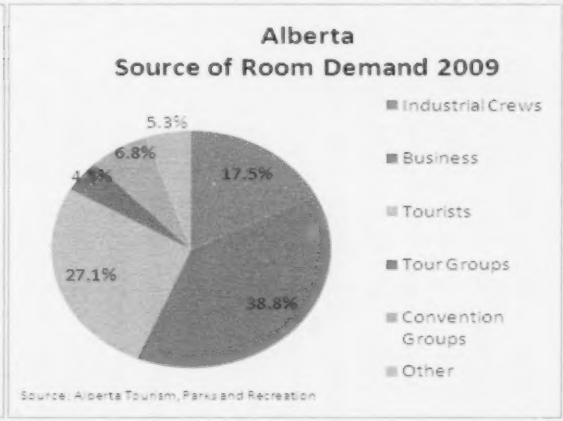
Economic Indicators: Battle River Region				
Major Construction Projects, as of March 31				
	Number of Projects		**Value ($millions)**	
Industry Sector	**2011**	**2010**	**2011**	**2010**
Biofuels	0	1	$0.0	$22.0
Chemicals & Petrochemicals	2	0	$42.5	$0.0
Infrastructure	5	9	$89.5	$144.4
Institutional	3	5	$31.7	$54.6
Other Industrial	2	2	$49.5	$49.5
Power	1	1	$350.0	$350.0
Residential	2	1	$27.0	$11.3
Tourism/Recreation	0	1	$0.0	$6.0
Total	**15**	**20**	**$590.2**	**$637.8**
% of Provincial Total	**1.8%**	**2.2%**	**0.3%**	**0.3%**
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects				

Note: 2010 and 2011 cannot be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project.

Accommodation & Hospitality

In 2009 Battle River Region had 31 accommodation properties with a total of 1,252 rooms, making up 2.0% of available rooms in Alberta. The majority of room demand (40.4%) was by industrial crews, followed by business travelers at 27.3%. The average occupancy rate in the region was 54.9%, compared to the provincial average of 58.6%. The average room rate was $99.35, which was 11.4% lower than the provincial average of $112.19.





Economic Indicators: Battle River Region		
Accommodation Statistics	**2008**	**2009**
Battle River		
Number of Properties	28	31
Supply of Rooms	1,068	1,252
Share of Alberta	1.7%	2.0%
Average Number of Rooms/Property	38.1	40.4
Occupancy Rate	67.7%	54.9%
Average Room Rate	$80.77	$99.35
Alberta		
Average Number of Rooms/Property	82.5	82.0
Occupancy Rate	68.2%	58.6%
Average Room Rate	$113.54	$112.19
Source: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation		

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- Alberta Oil Sands Industry Quarterly Update
- Facts on Alberta
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Monthly Economic Review
- Alberta Natural Gas Industry Quarterly Update